United Nations A/69/895–S/2015/318

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2015
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda items 51 and 60

Security Council
Seventieth year

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Identical letters dated 7 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In yet another flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and in blatant disregard of authoritative international resolutions calling for Israel, the occupying Power, to end its occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan and halt its hostile practices and brazen contravention of all international instruments and norms, the occupying Israeli authorities confiscated thousands of dunums of land in the occupied Syrian Golan. The confiscated land is to be allocated to settlers who are being brought in to start farming projects. The Israeli authorities have also begun to conduct exploratory drilling for oil in the occupied Syrian Golan.

In implementation of these "farming projects", the Israeli occupying authorities have begun to establish 750 new farms, the smallest of which will be 65 dunums. This year, 90 Israeli families have been brought in to settle those farms. Some 150 additional families will be brought in each year, until the total number reaches 750 families. At the same time, Israel has appropriated water resources to irrigate these farms, thereby depleting the water resources of the occupied Syrian Golan and depriving Syrian nationals of those resources. In addition, the Israeli company Afek has begun to drill for oil in the occupied Syrian Golan, near the so-called Natur settlement. That company is about end drilling at the first exploratory site and will begin drilling at the second site this month.

Those actions by Israel are in stark violation of international law, the Geneva Conventions and Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council

deemed that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect. In that same resolution, the Council determined that all the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since June 1967.

Those actions also contravene authoritative international resolutions, including the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, which affirm that Israel's settlement building and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan are unlawful and illegal. Those resolutions furthermore call on Israel, the occupying Power, to preserve the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and to safeguard the territory's water and various other natural resources, which belong, by right, to the citizens of Syria living under occupation. Israel's actions also violate United Nations resolutions, the most recent of which is General Assembly resolution 69/241 entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources". In that resolution, the Assembly affirms the inalienable rights of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources, and demands that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of those resources.

As Syria had indicated in its previous letters, this Israeli colonization campaign is being carried out even as Israel continues to violate human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan. On 25 February 2015, Israeli occupying forces rearrested the Syrian national Sidqi al-Maqt, and then, on 2 March 2015, they detained Sheikh Atif Darwish, from the occupied village of Buq'ata, and Fida' Majid al-Sha'ir, from the occupied village of Majdal Shams. Those illegal practices are yet another entry in Israel's shameful record, which is replete with such crimes as sowing fear, terrorism, forced displacement, the razing of Syrian villages, the plundering of natural resources and the destruction of historical monuments and the environment.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Secretary-General and the Security Council to take immediate measures to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to halt its illegal acts of aggression in the occupied Syrian Golan. It also reiterates that the stability of the Middle East and the credibility of the United Nations require the Organization and the Security Council to take such measures as are necessary to ensure implementation of the relevant international resolutions, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981), by compelling the Israeli occupying authorities to halt their hostile practices and withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan, to the line of June 1967.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 51 and 60, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations